

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

--In an alternate embodiment, head portion 14 includes bristles 20 integrally joined to spacer 40, which is attached to the base of head portion 14, as shown in FIG. 6. Spacer 40 provides good adhesion of bristles 20 to head portion 14 and provides support to bristles 18. The additional support provided by spacer 40 stiffens bristles 18 by decreasing the effective length of the bristles, which allows the incorporation of bristles having smaller diameters that more easily penetrate the interstitial regions of the mouth into the toothbrush. Bristles 18 extend from head portion 14 through spacer 40. Spacer 40 is formed of the elastomeric materials listed above and can be formed of the same elastomeric material as used to form the elastomeric bristles 20. Spacer 40 and elastomeric bristles 20 at the perimeter of head portion 14 can be molded as one unit. If the bristles 20 and spacer 40 are molded as one unit, their diameter is preferably from about 4 mil to about 200 mil. Elastomeric bristles 20 can extend at angles from spacer 40 and can optionally extend from the head portion to a radiused terminal end 71.--